

Gene serves on a number of boards, such as the Advisory Board of Marymount Medical Center. Moreover his concern for people, both here and abroad, is impressive and admirable. As part of his titanic work he is helping the people in Poland to raise funds for the Laski Institute for the Blind as well as the Polish Children's Heartline Foundation, and he has significantly contributed to the cooperation between Poland and the United States.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Eugene Bak for using his unique skills and numerous talents in service to the people of Polonia and Northeast Ohio. May his tireless dedication and his achievements continue to inspire us all.

RECOGNIZING MARK EVERSON

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mark Everson for his dedication to public service and to congratulate him on his new position as President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross. Everson's commitment to this country as the Internal Revenue Service Commissioner is an example for everyone in public service.

Mark Everson has served as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) since 2003, and we will certainly miss him when he officially leaves to lead the American Red Cross on May 29th. His dedication to making sure that taxpayers' needs were heard, and his commitment to expanding access to and knowledge of the Earned Income Tax Credit deserve our congratulations.

Prior to his confirmation as IRS Commissioner, Everson has worked in several other high-profile positions in the public and private sectors. During the Reagan Administration, he worked tirelessly in various positions at the U.S. information agency and the Department of Justice, and he also served at the Office of Management and Budget for the current Administration.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to call Mark Everson a friend, and I thank him for his fine work at the IRS over the last four years. It has been an honor to work with him throughout the years. He is a true public servant who is committed to the highest level of integrity, and the American Red Cross will be well served by his dedication and leadership.

RECOGNIZING FRAN AMIR

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fran Amir, a constituent from Plainsboro, to honor her on the occasion of her tenth anniversary as Principal of the Religious School at The Jewish Center of Princeton.

Ms. Amir grew up in New York City and has been in the field of education and youth programming most of her life. A graduate of Brooklyn College, Ms. Amir taught social stud-

ies in the New York school system for many years. Ms. Amir did graduate work at Wayne State University in Jewish Studies, and has taught in Hebrew Schools in New York, West Bloomfield, Michigan, Toronto, and The Jewish Center of Princeton. She has directed teen programs both in summer camps and during the school year, and has served as the Youth and Family Programs Co-chair at the Jewish Center for five years.

Ms. Amir's students receive far more than just the basics of Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah preparation in her religious school curriculum. When becoming Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah, a young person is expected to assume the moral and ethical responsibilities of an adult, in particular, service to the community, or "mitzvot." Ms. Amir provides the best possible role model of one who performs mitzvot. Along with her service to the local Jewish community, for example, she traveled with a group of her tenth graders to Biloxi to help with clean-up of the local synagogue, Beth Israel, after Hurricane Katrina. The students carefully removed and wrapped memorial plaques from the wall, ensuring their safe storage until a new temple could be built. Not only did the students help in a practical way, but also helped maintain the Jewish tradition of reverence for the synagogue and its trappings.

The highest responsibility in the Jewish faith is to learn and teach the Torah. Through religious classes, youth programs, and by example, Ms. Amir exemplifies someone who celebrates her faith and tradition through her daily life. She shares her passion with her family and friends, and touches the lives of countless students, their families, and the congregation.

I am proud to recognize Fran Amir for all that she has given to the community on the occasion of her tenth anniversary as Principal of the Religious School of The Jewish Center of Princeton.

COMMENDING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today in strong support of House Resolution 300, which commends the significant achievements of the Rutgers University Women's Basketball team.

I wholeheartedly join the citizens of our Nation, the people of New Jersey and my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives in congratulating the team for a job well done.

I was not able to formally vote for this important measure that I proudly cosponsored yesterday, because I was in Bound Brook, New Jersey working with local, State and federal officials mapping out a plan to respond to the significant destruction many 7th Congressional District Communities sustained as a result of the massive Nor-easter weekend storm. Had I been present, I would have wholeheartedly voted Yes.

By advancing to the Final Four of the women's National Collegiate Athletic Association championship—the Rutgers University Scarlet

Knight basketball team achieved a tremendous success. Each and every member of the team should be proud of their excellent season and their significant accomplishment. The team's 27–9 season record is testament to their hard work and dedication.

I am honored and proud to join our Nation and the citizens of New Jersey in commending the team and their coach C. Vivian Stringer for this accomplishment. Each and every member of the team are true heroes and provide a real inspiration to young people across the Nation.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1591, U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I could not support this motion to instruct House conferees on the Defense Supplemental appropriations bill, for two reasons: First, I do not support the idea of rigidly insisting on the parts of the House-passed bill that the motion says the conferees should not change. Second, I believe the funding of our troops and the future of our involvement in Iraq are too important and too serious to be used for cheap partisan tricks.

My vote was based on my appraisal of the merits of the motion, without regard to how others may have decided to vote. In other words, unlike the gentleman from California who offered it, I took the motion seriously—and, like its author, I opposed it.

Earlier, when the House considered the Defense Supplemental bill itself, I voted for the bill to ensure that America's soldiers get the equipment and resources they need and the top-quality health care they may require when they come home.

My vote for the bill was not a vote to support the Bush Administration's policy in Iraq. We are 4 years into a war the Bush Administration assured us would be short and decisive. The Administration's misjudgments, lack of planning and poor leadership have made a bad situation worse—and the tactic of increasing troops for a temporary "surge" is no substitute for what is needed, namely, a strategy for containing civil war and a wider regional war.

While I am convinced that it was a strategic mistake to go to war in Iraq in the way that the Bush Administration did, we are still deeply engaged there—and while our troops are in the field, we must provide them what they need. Beyond supplying our soldiers, however, we must extricate them from what objective defense experts have characterized as an emerging civil war.

Disengaging from that civil war is the purpose of the provisions in the House-passed bill designed to hold the president accountable to the benchmarks set by his own administration and the Iraqi government—including enactment of a hydro-carbon law; conducting of provincial and local elections; reform of current laws governing the de-Baathification process; amendment of the Constitution of Iraq; and allocation of Iraqi revenues for reconstruction projects.